

# **Special Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee**

**Thursday, April 26, 2012, 6:00 PM**

**Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center**

**350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860**

## **Minutes**

**I Meeting will come to order**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**

### **a. Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-arrived at 6:05 PM; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here**

**Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment; Ms. Patti Di Censo, Secondary School Performance Officer; Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator; Ms. Margaret Baker, Assistant Business Administrator; Mr. Ernie Morgan, Network Supervisor; Mr. Edward Frenette, Senior Vice President, Symmes Maini & McKee Associates (SMMA) and Ms. Keelia Kentor, Planner, SMMA.**

**Not in attendance were Mr. David Coughlin and Mr. Stephen Robinson, Legal Counsel for the School Committee.**

### **b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

## **II Public Participation**

**None**

## **III Informational Item(s)**

**a. Update of Stage II Facilities Plan**

**Mrs. Cylke, the Superintendent, provided the background information on the project. The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has established new regulations for Necessity of Construction projects. A school district must first present a need for the work and then submit it to RIDE for approval at 75% reimbursement. But they weren't always pleased. Now you build your project, present it, renovate and then get reimbursed.**

**Does Pawtucket have a need? Stage I was completed by MGT and submitted to RIDE and was approved.**

**Stage II consists of educational specifications. Educational specifications describe what needs to be in that school. We are adding a 21st Century learning environment to complete that. RIDE has put a moratorium on renovations, projects and new school projects through 2014. There is no moratorium on health and safety. So that is our focus right now.**

**The Committee voted to approve SMMA to identify the health and safety issues at our schools.**

**RIDE has been receiving many requests and as a result they have requested to see the districts' long range plans. In addition to putting it into health and safety we had to put it into a five year plan.**

**I don't see us opening a new school or decommissioning a school in the next five years for this reason. The earliest we could get a question on the ballot would be fall of 2014. If the voters approve the question, it would typically take approximately eighteen months to build a new school so you would be looking at the fall of 2016.**

**SMMA has never had a Stage II submittal fail at RIDE and they have worked hard at meeting every deadline. Thank you.**

**Also, Ernie who is here and has worked very hard on this project, thank you.**

**Mr. Frenette: Thank you for having us here tonight.**

**Mr. Noonan: What does AICP stand for?**

**Ms. Kentor: American Institute for Certified Planners.**

**Mr. Frenette: Under the new regulations we have worked for six communities in Rhode Island and East Greenwich was the first to be completed under the Stage II plan. We have done high schools and middle schools and elementary schools across New England.**

**The immediate health and safety scope is identified by the facilities assessment and repair costs.**

**Repair costs are done by a repair cost estimator done line by line for each item. Costs change and will need to be updated.**

**The Stage II application also includes a feasibility study for what the city ultimately wants to do in the next five years with your facilities and the district master plan. They want the cities and towns to be thinking five years in advance to develop a master plan that will consider the physical facilities as buildings but also where you want to be in five years in how you deliver education through those buildings to the students. Once that is known it goes into the master plan and it is delivered.**

**Stage II submission will be made in May with a preliminary master plan and the final details with the facilities master plan in July.**

**Ms. Kentor provided some history about Pawtucket including the**

**Facility Utilization and Capacity Study by Dr. Robert Schiller in 2010 which provided a wealth of information for this project. A big part of the architectural report is the capacity analysis and that study helped at the anecdotal level.**

**They also looked at the MGT Educational Specifications which was done in 2011 which shows what Pawtucket wants to do in the future in terms of its educational plan.**

**The RIDE Stage I approved application was also reviewed. The Stage II application is built off of Stage I.**

**This process is being approached in a dual path. Normally it would be a linear path, however, due to time constraints the data is being collected and processed and then we will work on the master plan.**

**The detailed path will be done by May 1st and our master plan will be ready for submission on July 12th.**

**Ms. Bonollo: When is it submitted to the Board of Regents?**

**Ms. Kentor: I believe it's in June. We submit it to RIDE on May 1st. Then it's submitted to the Regents in June for the first reading and I believe it's approved at their second meeting on June 21st.**

**The facilities assessment has been completed. The repairs cost estimate has been completed. Those two components are used to generate the health and safety scope.**

**Mr. Noonan: Is that only for the health and safety issue?**

**Ms. Kentor: No. The facilities walk through and the resulting cost estimate comes from much more than the immediate health and safety. I believe the final total for the whole encompassing project came to about \$150M. That includes capital upgrades and energy**

**efficiency.**

**Mr. Noonan: What would that be based on?**

**Ms. Kentor: This is based on repairs. We have the long range master plan on what you are going to do in terms of tearing down a building or putting an addition on a building, those are considered major renovations. Then there are repairs; bringing all the systems up to where they should be.**

**Mr. Frenette: Every community we work with has those kinds of numbers for repairing their buildings.**

**Mrs. Cylke: That was the essence of the MGT report and there were four things.**

**1. Educational Suitability**

**2. Technology**

**3. Bricks and Mortar (i.e., windows, roofs any outside site; your parking-pick up and drop off)**

**4. Electrical**

**It could never be new, but \$150M could bring them up to 90%. The best example is Central High School in Providence. It's been re-pointed on the outside and it looks good, but it's 1940 on the outside and 2012 on the inside.**

**Mr. Frenette: No school district has ever gone to the 90%.**

**Ms. Kentor: The capacity analysis is currently in progress. The Stage II data has been collected and is almost complete. The submission will happen on May 1st. Our goal is then to get the approvals from the committees for the long range goals and looking to complete the master plan.**

**The way SMMA conducts its facilities assessment is to start out with a roundtable meeting with the facilities staff. We ask the facilities staff to complete a facilities matrix for every building. They are asked to rate the HVAC systems, the interior and exterior on a scale of one to ten.**

**Engineers and architects perform walk-throughs of each building and pay particular attention to those areas with the lower scores. They confirm this and write up their scopes. This information is passed along to our cost estimator who generates the cost for us. The cost is vetted by our architectural and engineering staff.**

**Mr. Frenette: When we get the estimate back it takes us a week to vet it.**

**Mr. Araujo: The estimated numbers here; is that based on our facilities staff or is it based on accommodations of what they thought and what they had to do in their work as well?**

**Ms. Kentor: Those numbers are based on what your staff would tell us and what our engineers in the field would go out and confirm.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Are you saying those numbers are not real?**

**Ms. Kentor: Those are just ratings.**

**Mr. Frenette: The final report represents a compilation of your facilities people and our architects and engineers best judgment of the status of your facilities. They're as real as they can be.**

**Ms. Kentor: The pictures display some examples of some discolored ceiling tiles, dated boilers, aging infrastructure and roofs that need repair, etc.**

**Mr. Spooner: I noticed that the sewage scored a 10.**

**Ms. Kentor: That's an example of how the matrix works.**

**Ms. Kentor: If you notice there is no school name on top of the photos. They rate every school with their own set of numbers.**

**A capital improvement improves the building beyond anything the building was intended for. (i.e., an addition or an upgrade to a science room.)**

**Code compliance is self explanatory.**

**Energy efficiency is a repair that will realize energy savings.**

**IT repairs and upgrades are anything that will increase or sustain the building's technological infrastructure.**

**Another item not listed is asset protection. It refers to any item that protects the integrity of the building. An example of this would be an HVAC system that is leaking and creating an unsafe condition on a roof or windows that are leaking and could be causing potential damage to the building as a whole.**

**There is a moratorium until 2014. Only those items deemed an immediate threat to health and safety issues can be submitted to RIDE. RIDE identifies these items not only as code items but also as an immediate health and safety concern. A code item example would be an ADA drinking fountain. A health and safety concern example would be a fire alarm system that is in need of an upgrade and anything that effects egress in the event of an emergency.**

**The entire cost for the scope for this district is \$11,700,000.00.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Does that include just the immediate need or does it also include those qualifying items that aren't necessarily needed?**

**Ms. Kentor: Just the immediate need.**

**Mr. Frenette:** You want to catch things before they fail. You don't want to do it so much more in advance that it's a capital improvement. If you wait for things to fail, you are faced with regulatory things such as; the fire chief may say regardless of your budget this has to be fixed now, or we have to close the school.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** It makes sense for a district to prioritize the immediate needs but it's difficult too because kids are in school and that is a timeline issue also.

**Ms. Bonollo:** The example of the ALP, the \$914,000.00. Is that just the ALP side of that building or does that include the whole building?

**Ms. Kentor:** I would have to look at the details of the scope and see what side of the building it addresses.

**Mrs. Cylke:** I see here for instance it addresses the boiler and it says failure is imminent. That would include the entire building.

**Ms. Kentor:** This capacity analysis is where we take the square footage of a building and apply a RIDE standard for gross square foot per student. In the elementary level it is approximately 145-163. The elementary schools show a high percentage of being over capacitated.

At the middle schools it would appear that you are under capacity.

At the high schools you are way over capacity. ALP shows you are way over capacity and that is because the RIDE standard doesn't always sync up. RIDE does not have a standard for an alternative learning program housed within an administration building.

**Mrs. Cylke:** The gross square footage per student, is that the same for every student?



**Ms. Kentor:** It changes per grade. RIDE recommends 185 for high school students.

**Mr. Frenette:** The scale is basically higher for small schools and larger for small schools. It happens because we are looking at buildings from different eras and that is why we are looking at every space.

**Ms. Kentor:** In doing the more detailed capacity analysis, your junior high schools are not under capacity. They're classroom sizes are very small.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** You try to repair to capacity but there are fluctuations all the time. In a modern school there would be over or under what percentage? I look at Cunningham and that is 52% over and that is huge.

**Mr. Frenette:** You have to look at projections and that is five years out. You are allowed to build 5% over the five year projection.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** What percent do you consider alarming?

**Ms. Kentor:** You should look at it in terms of what percent would you consider another classroom? By RIDE standards that number is twenty four. If you are twenty four students over, you need another classroom to accommodate them. I believe Cunningham is 140 students over than what it should be.

**Mrs. Cylke** mentioned the Cotton & Company audit that suggested Pawtucket could save \$5M by closing schools. An outside independent contractor was hired to perform a study. Dr. Schiller said in his report not only are you not going to be closing schools, he said we needed to build more classrooms. Even though our

enrollment went down from about 10,000 to about 8,500 we have had to add new programs. New ESL programs, new special education programs—small learning group environments to keep kids in Pawtucket and from preventing them from having to go out to programs.

**Mr. Spooner:** You mentioned East Greenwich and that was your first project. How long ago was that?

**Mr. Frenette:** The RIDE regulations came out in the summer of 2007 and we started with East Greenwich in the spring of 2007. By the time we finished Stage I and Stage II construction in East Greenwich the regulations had been in place for two years.

**Mr. Spooner:** As it is now with that school, how do they conform to the regulations? Are they close to capacity? Do you base that going forward?

**Mr. Frenette:** The way we solved the overall problem in East Greenwich is they had a seven/eight middle school and they had overcrowded elementary schools. We made it a normal band. A seven/eight middle school would be called a narrow band. We made the middle school a six, seven and eight middle school. We took the pressure off the elementary schools and built them a new school. That took care of eliminating their worst school and helping them with the students in grades K-5. We only had to upgrade their science rooms in the high schools.

You need to know we can negotiate for good educational reasons and good facilities reasons.

**Mr. Spooner:** Knowing Pawtucket has no “build ability” let’s say to

bring industry back here (i.e., Hasbro, National Insulated Wire) you have to have a great school system—"build it and they will come." We have to do this for the kids and I'm a believer, but we all know it comes down to the money and when it comes time to sell this, I want to make sure that we can do this.

Mr. Frenette: The State is having an argument with itself. It wants school districts to properly fund the students and take ownership for its facilities and on the other hand they have a budget crisis. We are trying to negotiate the best possible solution given those crises.

Ms. Bonollo: Based on our elementary being over and our junior high being under, can we put our sixth grades in our junior highs? We've done it before. What would it do to our budget now that we are trying to fix things?

Mrs. Cylke: This is the factual work. That really wouldn't be my decision that would be a committee's decision. Tonight we want to appoint a member of the Committee to that committee and some members of the community to go over those options.

Ms. Kentor: You mentioned that you have extra square footage at your junior high schools but you actually don't. That's what we're finding with the room by room capacity analysis. In this gross square foot analysis it appears that you do when in fact you are probably at capacity or over capacity at your junior high schools.

Your enrollments are projected to increase over the next five to ten years. Those capacity issues are going to be exasperated.

Mr. Frenette: This is high compared to any other district we have ever worked with. I suspect when we finish the room by room

**analysis it is going to be greater.**

**Ms. Kentor: A word about our master plan efforts and some of the issues we're going to be looking to discuss as we develop a plan to move forward with. The big issue Pawtucket is facing with its schools is the aging facilities. As the buildings age, they become more difficult to maintain. They often need a lot of work just to meet modern 21st Century needs.**

**There are also sight efficiencies. Your buildings are all located on small sights which are all landlocked which means there is not a lot of room for expansion, possibly sight reorganization. It would be very hard to build out on any of your existing sights.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Thank you for your presentation.**

#### **IV New Business-Action Items**

##### **a. Approval of 2012-13 School Calendar**

**Ms. Mercer: We are asking that you approve the 2012-2013 school calendar as presented so that we can submit it to RIDE for approval.**

**Ms. Nordquist motioned to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar as presented. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

##### **b. Transformation Plan Endorsement and School Improvement Grant Acceptance**

**Mrs. Cylke: We were pleased to receive \$349,297,000 for Tolman and Shea in equal amounts over a three year period for a SIG Grant total of \$2,095,782.00. This evening we are asking the Committee to endorse the plan that was presented and accepted at RIDE and accept the accompanying grant monies.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve to endorse and support the Tolman and Shea High School Transformation Plans and the accompanying grant monies. Mr. Noonan seconded.**

**Ms. Nordquist: We received less money in SIG Grant money than what the plan called for. I would like to know specifically where that money is coming from.**

**Mrs. Cylke: The plan has to be funded as presented. Once we got the actual amount we sat down as a team; Kim, Maggie, Patti and Chris Spagnoli and what they didn't cover was computers. The new proposed FY13 Budget has computers proposed from the general fund. We had to be sure we were funding appropriately from either the federal or general funds. One item that was taken out was stipends for these new positions and Ms. Mercer thought that we could make that up with federal funds.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I had the same question. We had the grant and how it was sent and how the money was going to be spent and now we see changes in the budget and other figures in the budget. Could we see on one page how the money was changed and where it was moved to?**

**Ms. Nordquist: Perhaps you could amend the motion or do separate motions to accept the SIG Grant and not accept the transformation plan until we know exactly where this money is coming from. Of course we don't want to turn down any money from the State but we don't want to accept the transformation plan when we don't know where the money is coming from to fully fund it. I want to know is it coming from Title I? What other programs are going to be effected at**

the schools?

**Mr. Tenreiro:** I think we can approve the plan as is. It's been approved by RIDE. We have to meet the transformation plan.

**Ms. Nordquist:** With all due respect, RIDE did approve the plan but they didn't fully fund and we have to know where the money is coming from.

**Mrs. Cylke:** During that meeting it was very clear that they were not paying for the computers. We had to find the \$127,000.00 to fund those computers. We have budgeted for ten full time teachers in our FY13 budget. We were careful not to budget for the \$1.2M in accelerated funding formula.

**Ms. Nordquist:** I cannot fully support this not knowing if the money is going to be there. I would prefer we not accept the plan until we know it's funded or separate the two. Regardless if RIDE approved the transformation plan; not to send the message that we don't support the work that was done by the team just so we know where the money is coming from.

**Mr. Noonan:** If they only give us this for three years, do they expect this stuff to happen within three years?

**Mr. Tenreiro:** There's a lot that can be done in three years.

**Mr. Noonan:** What happens after three years? Do they give us more money?

**Mrs. Cylke:** No. This is the dilemma with Title programs all along. You get money and as you have success and meet those targets the money goes away. The schools will say they need those monies to continue to sustain their efforts.

Our hope is to meet our academic goals in three years and as the equity formula fund is added we can sustain our effort and move forward.

We requested \$984,000.00 per year and received \$750,000.00. I put in to increase the sub rate to \$100 per day; and to increase the number of days the clerks work. You can decide tonight to change that.

Ms. Nordquist: I say let's accept the SIG Grant and hold off on the transformation plan.

Mr. Tenreiro: I get the general consensus that there is going to be a local budget impact to this transformation plan that we will need more information on in detail and those decisions can be made in the future, but it's imperative, it's been approved by RIDE. That part as is, is what got us the SIG Grant money that we are receiving. It does have a local impact and we knew that all along.

Ms. Nordquist: You keep saying that RIDE approved this. Are we doing this as a show of support?

Mrs. Cylke: A show of support. I think it shows the teachers that the plan submitted the Committee supports.

Mrs. Cylke suggested accepting the SIG Grant and addressing the money issue in the next agenda item, the FY13 Budget. The actual difference is \$257,000.00, \$127,000.00 for the computers which leaves a difference of \$150,000.00. Mrs. Cylke suggested that \$150,000.00 in cuts could be realized in a \$100M budget.

Ms. Baker: The cost of the computers is \$138,000.00.

Mr. Spooner withdrew his original motion.

Mr. Spooner moved to accept the School Improvement Grant (SIG)

**Award from the Rhode Island Department of Education. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to accept and endorse the Tolman and Shea High School Transformation Plan. Mr. Noonan seconded.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I will be voting to support the transformation plan. It needs to be done. There was a tremendous amount of work put into it. There are budgetary concessions that will need to be made on the local side that will come later on but we have a faculty that is dedicated and a central office that is behind the idea that we will transform.**

**Ms. Nordquist: I look forward on being informed on what's being cut.**

**Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-no; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion passed five in favor; one opposed.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Patti, good job, a lot of hard work.**

**c. FY13 Budget Approval**

**Mrs. Cylke: What's changed since the last time we presented the FY13 Budget was the fact that we were informed of the SIG Grant. The major difference is the sheet that shows you what was added and that is the laptops for Shea and Tolman \$130,171.00. We originally had \$266,448.00 for curriculum, assessment and instruction supports and we've been more specific with that by adding \$184,720.00 for the Math initiative. We deleted instructional content specialists' stipends \$48,443.00. Ms. Mercer felt that would fall under the federal monies**



**we have available. We reduced the curriculum, assessment and instruction from \$266,448.00 to \$184,720.00. We still have a balanced budget as presented with those adjustments since our April 10th meeting.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the FY13 Budget with the changes: laptops for Shea and Tolman-\$130,171.00; reduced the curriculum, assessment and instruction from \$266,448.00 to math initiative-\$184,720.00 and deleted instructional content specialists' stipends \$48,443.00; but with the stipend if monies are needed for transformation, it be brought before the Committee for the proposed cuts. Mr. Noonan seconded.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: The budget as it is its still assuming we are not receiving the restaurant tax, the unspecified cuts, and an increase in the medical reserves?**

**Mr. Conlon: That's correct and we are not relying on the medical reserves at all.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: This still includes the charge backs from the City?**

**Mr. Conlon: Yes.**

**Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Congratulations. It's a balanced budget. We're in a better situation than we've been in a long time. Obviously what is out there too, is our current year budget and what that comes in at. I think it's a big deal having to say we have a balanced budget having**

to come up with a transformation plan and having to cut \$7.5M last year. Thank you, Superintendent Cylke and Central Office Staff for going line item by line item.

d. Appointment of School Committee Member to Facilities Committee  
Ms. Nordquist moved to appoint Mr. Araujo and Mr. Noonan to the Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Noonan seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

e. Approval to freeze Non-Discretionary and Non grant Spending.  
Mr. Spooner moved to approve to freeze all non-discretionary and non grant spending.

Ms. Nordquist: When you talk about this are you referring to hiring teachers who are needed to fill vacancies through the end of the school year? Only because I know there are substitutes filling in where teachers have retired and they haven't been hired.

Mrs. Cylke: I'm aware that there are positions that have opened up as people leave, but it is my understanding that those positions will be filled once we start the new school year. I think there are a number of reasons for that.

Ms. Mercer: The longest one is a librarian and I've advertised four times for that position and I've advertised four sets of people. We can't fill it if we don't have a person.

Ms. Nordquist: Even in the event it is a special educator that has taken a position and has put in a lot of hours and has gone to IEP meetings. You're just going to keep them on substitute pay for the rest of the year?

Ms. Mercer: Yes.

**Mrs. Cylke:** I'd like to work with the Associations and come back and let's say we have someone out for three months and that person is going to be working with the parents. We can have a differential rate instead of a day to day rate.

**Mr. Conlon:** I think we want to freeze discretionary spending, not non-discretionary spending.

**Mr. Spooner** moved to amend the motion to approve to freeze all discretionary and non grant spending. **Mr. Noonan** seconded.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** Keep in mind it is on this current year budget.

**Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-no; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion passed five in favor; one opposed.**

**f. Approval of 2012 Facilities bond Request for November Ballot**

**Mrs. Cylke:** Here is the challenge. Every other year we go to the voters and ask for \$3M. The voters have been good to us. We're in the habit of getting \$3M. Our reality is SMMA has identified \$11M in need that we need. If we ask for \$5M, that leaves us with \$6M. I met with bond attorney, Karen Grande, to discuss strategy. Both Mr. Fleming and the bond attorney advised against splitting the question.

Mr. Fleming felt comfortable asking for \$5M, but we would have to educate the public. We would have to let them know that 75% is reimbursable.

This really has to come from the Committee. Do we ask for \$8M and get nothing? Do we stay safe and ask for \$3M knowing that somewhere down the line we knew that something could go wrong

and we didn't ask for enough to fix it. I don't want that on my shoulders. Do we ask for \$5M and go back in another year and ask for \$3M?

Ms. Bonollo: When we get the 75% reimbursement back are we reinvesting that inside our schools?

Mrs. Cylke: It goes back to pay the bond. We ask the voters to give us the money and when the project is done, RIDE gives us the money to pay back the bond.

Mr. Conlon: Its debt service on the City side. It doesn't affect our local budget. There are other bonds that the City issues for other non schools buildings. It's the same thing.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve a \$5,000,000 bond request for the November ballot. Mr. Noonan seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: It's ironic that we are asking them for more money when we've had this \$3M for two years.

Mr. Araujo: If we go to them and it gets rejected, is the \$3M still on table for the ballot?

Mrs. Cylke: If we ask for \$5M and it gets rejected all we have is \$3M right now in the balance.

When you see boiler failure imminent, you know you're going to have problems.

Mr. Tenreiro: She used the work hazards these are immediate health and safety issues. You're not going to see a brand new façade. The total cost for elementary schools alone is \$6.3M. That would still leave us \$3.3M short. This is serious.

Ms. Bonollo: It's a win win for the taxpayer.

**Mr. Spooner:** Let's not kid ourselves. "Taxes" is a bad word in the City of Pawtucket. For those of us who stayed in Pawtucket, we are going to do what we have to do. This is called survival of Pawtucket and people can spin it however they want. If we don't start doing these things now, it's never going to happen.

**Mrs. Cylke:** As bonds retire and new ones are added it's very cost neutral. Over the term of this bond, what is the actual cost?

We are at a point and time in Pawtucket where we have to work harder to promote our needs. We are asking for a little more. We're open and transparent. In 2014 we are going to have to campaign for a multi-million dollar bond to begin a restoration project for our schools. Many times when a school district is growing and you need to build more schools and you get turned down. What happens, the schools get crowded. Now you have their attention. Next time you go forward, they will pass it because they feel the pain and you try to avoid that.

RIDE has to approve the plan and they may take some things out.

The Chairman commented that there was a general consensus with the members on this topic and moved the question.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

#### **g. Approval of FY10 Budget Deficit Reduction Plan**

**Mr. Conlon:** As we have in past years the City came up with a deficit reduction plan for the fiscal year FY10 deficit which is slightly of \$2M.

\$1.8M of that was caused by a June last minute cut in state aid by the State of Rhode Island. After several meetings with the city and auditor general they have devised a plan in which the city will pay it

down \$150,000 this year. They paid \$150,000 last year. They will pay \$511,462 in each of the next four years which will eliminate our negative fund balance. We're asking for the school committee's approval for that.

Mr. Noonan moved to approve the FY10 deficit Reduction Plan as presented to the Auditor General for approval. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

#### **h. Approval of Layoff Notification Resolution**

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the Layoff Notification Resolution and to make the TBD as May 1st. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: Is that May 1st adequate time if an appeal needs to be made?

Mr. Beaupre: We could support it. Is it adequate time for the due process? It depends on the circumstances. It is case by case situations.

Mrs. Cylke: If the committee approves this date a commitment comes on your part too. If you have to have extra meetings to ensure that we do provide due process, and have hearings that are requested.

Mr. Noonan left at 7:40 PM

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion passed. Mr. Noonan was not present when the vote was taken.

**V Superintendent's Report**

**Mrs. Cylke:** Tolman won today so they are still undefeated. This week I had the opportunity to testify at the subcommittee to continue to fund the Jason Project in Rhode Island. The Jason Project was started by Dr. Robert Ballard and I was introduced to it at Smithfield High School by Bob O'Brien and really want to replicate this at Tolman and Shea. Where in their library with their camera they can actually be ten thousand leagues under the sea with people controlling submersibles from their own high school. It's very engaging hands on learning. We are, after all, the ocean state.

**Mr. Noonan** returned at 7:43 PM

## **VI Special Reports of School Committee Members**

**Mr. Araujo:** Thank everyone for coming and have a good evening.

**Ms. Bonollo:** My daughter goes to college in September and she has been accepted to UMASS Amherst, Simmons, Wheaton, Stonehill, University of Connecticut and the University of New Haven. It cost me a lot of money for her to fill out all those applications. She is going to Wheaton and she has earned because of what she has become a \$31,000 scholarship. Congratulations to the teachers of Pawtucket who got her to where she is. She's national honor. So thank you and good night.

**Mr. Noonan:** Thank you everyone for coming. This may be Tom's last budget. Thank you. You did a great job.

**Ms. Nordquist:** Have a good night.

**Mr. Spooner:** Joanne, I'm going to follow your lead. Any of you who know my family know I have a son and a daughter who have come up through this system. My son is finishing up his sophomore year at

**URI. My daughter will be graduating from the Jackie Walsh School next month.**

**Upon coming home from the conference Sunday afternoon thanks to Mr. Noonan I saw an acceptance letter on the dining room table for my daughter. She had always wanted to go to Rhode Island College for early childhood.**

**For those of you who don't know my daughter, my daughter was a three and a half month old preemie when she was born. We were told if she lived, she would never walk and she would be severely retarded. But she's a fighter and she's gotten through a lot of it. She's had a lot of surgeries and operations and I just want to personally say thank you to everyone in our system. I've always said we have great professional teachers and administrators in our system and I can't thank you enough from the bottom of my heart because to see where she is now is special to us.**

**A special thanks to Dr. David Morton who always, always believed in her and still calls her, even though he doesn't have her anymore, to see how she is doing. So when everyone wants to get on our system, it's these things that make us a great community. Thank you, again, all of you.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Pass**

**VII Adjournment**

**Mr. Noonan moved to adjourn. Mr. Araujo seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, adjourned the special meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 7:50 PM.**



**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved 6/12/12**